ABS 175

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THE MEANING AND USAGE OF KEISHIKI MEISHI; AIDA NI, TOKI NI, AND UCHI NI IN JAPANESE FORMAL WRITING (NEWSPAPER)

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ABSTRACT

This research discusses the analysis of the meaning and usage of keishiki meishi; aida ni, toki ni, and uchi ni in Japanese formal writing (newspaper). The data that were used in this research obtained from the online newspaper "Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese". The purpose of this research is to determine the meaning and usage, and also similarities and differences between aida ni, toki ni, and uchi ni in formal written forms. The research method is a descriptive qualitative method. The results of this research concluded that aida ni, toki ni, and

uchi ni were able to be used in the two events that take place simultaneously. Furthermore, the main usage of aida ni becomes a time limit on the events that have a clear period. The main usage of toki ni is to express the timing of common events. The main usage of uchi ni becomes a time limit on naturally occurring events. The differences are 1) Aida ni and uchi ni have a span of time when the events occur, while toki ni does not. 2) The time that expressed by aida ni and toki ni are certain, while the time that expressed by uchi ni is considered uncertain. 3) Aida ni is used in an conjecture event while uchi ni is used in an event that unexpectedly going to happen. 4) Aida ni can connect the prefix and suffix time in the happening event, while toki ni can not. 5) Toki ni is used at specific activity times while uchi ni is used at non-specific activity times.

Introduction

The Japanese language is one of the fields of foreign language education that is in great demand by Indonesian students, which is 745,125 people (The Japan Foundation, 2017). One of the driving factors that led to a large number of Japanese language students in Indonesia was strengthened by the information accord to the Indonesian Ministry of Industry in 2013, which stated that around 1,200 Japanese companies were being operated in Indonesia. Other than that, Masafumi Ishii (Japanese ambassador to Indonesia) in *info.japantimes.co.jp* revealed that "Japanese companies have created nearly 5 million workers and

more than 90% of the workers are local workers". This factor proves that a large number of Japanese learners are due to an increase in Japanese companies in Indonesia so that they require human resources who have the ability in Japanese.

Besides being measured through company interview tests, Japanese language proficiency is also measured through the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) certification. However, getting the JLPT certification is not as easy as we think. In a paragraph below is data on the number of participants who took part and who passed the JLPT in July 2019.

Table 1. The number of participation and graduation of JLPT participants in

2019

⬛ Data of the test in 2019 (July)

	Level	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	Total
Japan	Applicants	48,079	69,844	72,951	25,060	4,566	220,500
	Examinees[※]	42,997	64,503	68,231	23,115	4,085	202,931
	Certified	12,660	21,885	24,513	7,452	2,520	69,030
	Percentage Certified(%)	29.4%	33.9%	35.9%	32.2%	61.7%	34.0%
Overseas	Applicants	87,919	118,683	84,794	69,925	62,283	423,604
	Examinees[※]	73,863	99,931	68,019	56,616	49,088	347,517
	Certified	21,575	37,275	29,153	18,613	22,797	129,413
	Percentage Certified(%)	29.2%	37.3%	42.9%	32.9%	46.4%	37.2%
Japan - Overseas Total	Applicants	135,998	188,527	157,745	94,985	66,849	644,104
	Examinees[※]	116,860	164,434	136,250	79,731	53,173	550,448
	Certified	34,235	59,160	53,666	26,065	25,317	198,443
	Percentage Certified(%)	29.3%	36.0%	39.4%	32.7%	47.6%	36.1%

https://www.jlpt.jp/e/statistics/archive/201901.html

From the table above, it is stated that the overall total of the JLPT passing rate does not exceed 50% (domestically or abroad). This shows that Japanese is a foreign language that is difficult to learn.

One of these difficulties, according to Sutedi (2001: 1), was due to a large number of synonymous words and polysemy. Synonymous words in this research refer to aida ni, toki ni, and uchi ni which when translated into Indonesian have a similar meaning, namely *ketika* or *when* in English (Etsuko, 2007). The three materials are types of keishiki meishi (Nagara in Novianti, 2008: 62). Keishiki meishi accord to Ikaryaku in Tomoki (2008: 15) is "a special word class of nouns whose meaning is abstract and formality, not used independently, but accompanied by auxiliary words that complement the concrete or substantive meaning".

The fact, the three types of keishiki meishi have been researched by two female students from other Universities. The first research by Dea Andrey Puspita in 2016 with the titled "Analysis of Toki, Sai, Koro in Japanese Sentences (Syntax and Semantic Studies)". The data source used was informal data from the novel *Tonari Machi Sensou* and *Deguchi no Nai Umi*. The results obtained from this research were toki has a meaning that shows a situation that occurs suddenly, shows continuous events or past habits, and shows events that only occur once.

Furthermore, the second research by Sitty Tafzia Maumina in 2019 with the title "Semantic Analysis of the Differences between Uchi Ni and Aida Ni in Japanese Sentences". The data source used includes broad Japanese sentences related to the topic of discussion. The results obtained from this research were uchi ni and aida ni are both used to state two events, where the second event occurs before the first

event is over or is still ongoing. Also, the difference between uchi ni and aida ni was that uchi ni is based on the speaker's emotions having a feeling of regret if it is done late, while aida ni has no regret.

Based on the two previous studies above, there are similarities with the author's research, namely that they both examine the meaning and usage of one type of keishiki meishi, but the difference lies in the data source used. The data sources in the previous research were broad and non-specific Japanese sentences, as well as Japanese sentences in informal forms in the form of novels, while in this research the data source is in the form of formal writing (newspapers) obtained from the Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese (BCCWJ). According to the information that taken from the official website of BCCWJ (2009), which is *pj.ninjal.ac.jp,* it is stated that BCCWJ is an online corpus containing 104.3 million examples of modern Japanese sentences from general books, magazines, newspapers, business reports, blogs, Internet forums, textbooks, and legal documents.

From the background of the problems that have been explained, a problem limitation is made that focuses on the meaning and usage of keishiki meishi; aida ni, toki ni and uchi ni in Japanese sentences, especially the types of writing (newspapers), and also the similarities and differences between the three materials. Other than that, the purpose to be achieved from this research are to determine the meaning and usage of keishiki meishi; aida ni, toki ni, and uchi ni in Japanese formal writing (newspaper), and to find out the similarities and differences between the three materials.

Materials and Methods

The theoretical material in this research comes from books that support the research idea. From those books, we got the meaning and usage of aida ni, toki ni, and uchi ni according to experts as follows:

Table 2. The meaning and usage of aida ni, toki ni, and uchi ni

according to experts

The Types of Keishiki Meishi	The Meaning and Usage
Aida Ni	Aida ni means *during, while, between, when, meanwhile* (Etsuko, 2007: 22) and (Yuriko, 1998: 2). The meaning contained in aida ni shows two activities that take place simultaneously, where the second activity only occurs once or several times in the period of the first activity (Etsuko, 2007: 22). In its usage, aida ni functions as a time limit for several activities such as: • The activities that have a clear period (Makino, 1986: 515). • The activities that are carried out by two different people but occur at the same time (Yuriko, 1998: 3).
Toki Ni	Toki ni means *when* (Etsuko, 2007: 231). The meaning contained in toki ni is an expression of time in two activities

	that take place simultaneously, where toki ni focuses on when the second event occurs (Tanimori, 1994: 211). In its usage, toki ni functions as an expression of time in activities that tend to occur only once (Iori in Puspita, 2016: 20), but other opinions reveal that toki ni can also be used in activities that occur regularly (Makino, 2008: 505). Also, this toki can be used in activities such as: • The activities for which the time of occurrence is specifically disclosed (Makino, 2008: 315). • The unpleasant activities experienced by the speaker (Makino, 2008: 504). • The activities whose time span occurs only a moment (Makino, 2008: 505).
Uchi Ni	Uchi ni means *as, during, before, when, while* (Shiang, 2014: 79), (Etsuko, 2007: 34-35), and (Yuriko, 1998: 49). The meaning contained in uchi ni shows two activities that take place simultaneously, where the second activity undergoes unexpected changes during the first activity, and implies the need to carry out the second activity before the first activity attached to uchi ni ends (Etsuko, 2007: 34 -35). In its usage, uchi ni serves as a time limit for several activities such as*:*

	• The second activity which states the desires and suggestions that must be carried out before the first activity ends (ABK, 2013: 129). • The activities for which the duration of the occurrence is considered unclear (Yuriko, 1998: 48). • The second activity that occurs naturally during the first event takes place (ABK, 2013: 108). • The unfortunate activity occurred (Noboru, 2006: 164). • The activities that use repetition of verbs (Yuriko, 1998: 49).

Besides theoretical materials, this research is also using the data sources in the form of formal writing styles (newspapers) obtained from the Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese. The data collection process for the three keishiki meishi begins by writing the keywords aida ni, toki ni, and uchi ni in hiragana and kanji writing. From that process, the conditions are obtained as in Chart 1:
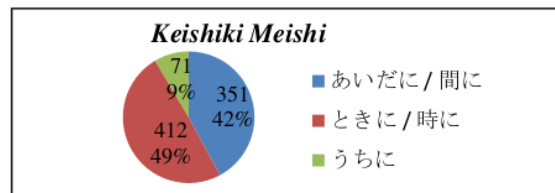

Chart 1. The number of usage of aida ni, toki ni and uchi ni in newspapers

(Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese)

From the results of the chart above, an initial analysis is formed regarding the number of usage of the three keishiki meishi in the BCCWJ newspaper. Toki ni is

the most used word than the other words, which is 49% or 412 data, followed by aida ni 42% or 351 data, and the last is uchi ni which is only 9% or 71 data.

Furthermore, the research method that was used in this research is descriptive qualitative methods. Qualitative methods is research that analyzes data inductively to find and understand the overall meaning based on existing facts, so that it can be broken down into a theory (Creswell, 2016: 4-5). These facts in this research are obtained from descriptive data which began with collecting basic theories regarding keishiki meishi; aida ni, toki ni, and uchi ni, followed by collecting sentence data from Japanese newspapers that will used to identify a problem, and also make a problem solving through reference books, library sources, and theories that support the research, so that it can be analyzed and concluded.

Result and Discussion

A.   The Usage of Aida Ni (間に)

In the usage of aida ni, 15 data were used and its placed based on the type of usage:

Chart 2. The usage number of Aida ni in the BCCWJ newspaper
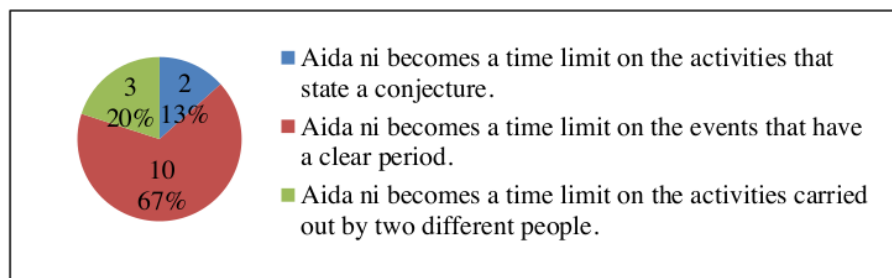
(Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese)

Based on the chart above, the main usage of aida ni becomes a time limit on the events that have a clear period (10 data or 67%). The next paragraph will explain the usage analysis of aida ni followed by their meaning.

1. The Usage of Aida Ni (間に) Becomes a Time Limit on The Activities That State a Conjecture

    1) しかも、そのうちの４分の１は５０歳以上で、これから１０年の**間に**定年を迎える。町末男・原子力委員会委員は懸念する。

        *Shikamo, sono uchi no yon-bun no ichi wa go jyuu-sai ijou de, korekara juu-nen no **aida ni** teinen wo mukaeru. Machi sueo, genshiryoku iinkai iin wa kenen suru.*

        "Other than that, a quarter of them are over 50 years old and will reach retirement age **in** the next 10 years. Sueo Machi, a member of the Nuclear Power Council feels worried about it."

    2) 付き合い始めて一年になるが、彼女は自分が仕事をしている**間に**彼が浮気をしていないか心配だという。

        *Tsukiai hajimete ichinen ni naruga, kanojo wa jibun ga shigoto wo shite iru **aida ni** kare ga uwaki wo shite inai ka shinpaida to iu.*

        "It has been a year since start dating, but the woman is worried whether the man is not cheating **when** she is working."

In (1) and (2), aida ni becomes a time limit on the activities that state a conjecture (it can be certain or uncertain). As in (1), it is stated that people who are now 50 years old will enter retirement age in the next 10 years. Whereas in (2), there is an uncertainty occurs because it only a speaker's worries.

2. The Usage of Aida Ni (間に) Becomes a Time Limit on The Events That Have a Clear Period

3) 初対面の印象度アップを目指す。第一印象は、七秒から三十秒までの**間に**決まるという。

   *Shotaimen no inshou-do appu wo mezasu. Daiichi inshou wa, nana-byou kara san juu-byou made no **aida ni** kimaru to iu.*

   "Aims to increase the impression of the first meeting. The first impression is set **between** 7 seconds and 30 seconds."

4) 中南部の拠点都市サッカルからジャコババードまで車で約１時間走る**間に**およそ１０カ所で検問を受け、旅券を確かめられた。

   *Chuu nanbu no kyoten toshi sakkaru kara jakobabaado made kuruma de yaku ichi-jikan hashiru **aida ni** oyoso juu-kasho de kenmon wo uke, ryoken wo tashikame rareta.*

   "**When** traveling about 1 hour by car from Sukkur, the base city in the central and southern parts of the city to Jacobabad, I received an inspection in about 10 places and also a passport control."

In (3) and (4), aida ni becomes a time limit on the events that have a clear period. In this usage, there are events with a directly or indirectly written down period. As in (3), which is 7 to 30 seconds, and aida ni is being used as the boundary between the two times. Whereas in (4) there is a word for one hour could still be understood by the interlocutor, but the period is not written directly.

3.   The Usage of Aida Ni (間に) Becomes a Time Limit on The Activities Carried Out by Two Different People

5) その方はどこかに連絡すべく、「待ちよってよ」とその場を離れました。その**間に**加害者の女性は、けがした息子を車に積み、発車させました。

*Sono kata wa doko ka ni renraku subeku, (machi yotte yo) to sono ba wo hanaremashita. Sono **aida ni** kagai-sha no josei wa, kega shita musuko wo kuruma ni tsumi, hassha sa semashita.*

"That person left the place saying "wait", then should have called somewhere. **Meanwhile**, the female perpetrator put the injured son in the car and set it off."

In (5), aida ni becomes a time limit on the activities carried out by two different people, a person and a woman perpetrator. In this usage, the first person and the second person are not in the same sentence, but the word aida ni is used as a sign that the first and second sentences take place at the same time.

B.   The Usage of *Toki Ni* (時に)

In the usage of toki ni, 15 data were used and its placed based on the type of usage:

Chart 3. The usage number of Toki ni in the BCCWJ newspaper
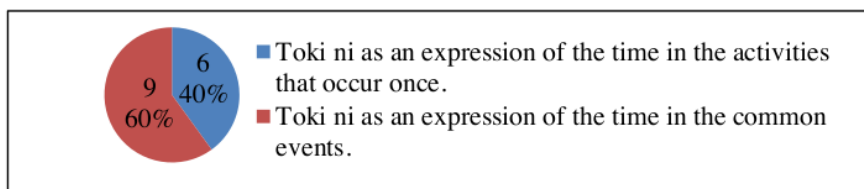
(Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese)

Based on the chart above, the main usage of toki ni is to express the time in common events (9 data or 60%). Furthermore, the next paragraph will explain the usage analysis of toki ni followed by their meaning.

1. The Usage of Toki Ni (時に) as an Expression of The Time in The Activities That Occur Once

6) 陸田さんは４５年間、様々な職場で働き続けてきた。１７歳の**時に**町工場で働き始め、２３歳で結婚。

*Rikuden-san wa yonjuugo-nenkan, samazamana shokuba de hataraki tsudzukete kita. Juunana-sai no **toki ni** machikoujou de hataraki hajime, nijuusan-sai de kekkon.*

"Mr. Rikuden has worked in various places for 45 years. **When** he was 17 years old, he started working in a town factory and got married at 23 years old."

In (6), toki ni is to express the time in the activities that occur once. The time that is attached to the toki ni in this usage is usually written specifically, and the next activity is past time information, which is when Mr. Rikuden was 17 years old, he started to work in a town factory.

2. The Usage of Toki Ni (時に) as an Expression of The Time in Common Events.

7) 子どもはたくさんほしかった。十五歳で卵巣の手術を受けた**時に**聞いた「子どもができるかどうか分からない」という医師のつぶやきが頭にあった。

*Kodomo wa takusan hoshikatta. Juu go-sai de ransou no shujutsu wo uketa **toki ni** kiita (kodomo ga dekiru ka dou ka wakaranai) to iu ishi no tsubuyaki ga atama ni atta.*

"I want to have many children. **When** I had ovarian surgery at 15 years old, I heard a doctor murmuring, (I don't know if (this child) can have children)."

8) 手術から五十日目、本格的なリハビリのため転院した**時には**、ほとんど問題なく会話ができ、体のまひもない。

*Shujutsu kara gotoobi-me, honkaku-teki na rihabiri no tame ten'in shita **toki ni** wa, hotondo mondai naku kaiwa ga deki, karada no mahi mo nai.*

"**When** I was transferred to another hospital at fifty days postoperatively for full scale rehabilitation, I was able to communicate with almost no problems and there was no body aches too."

9) 大きな揺れを感じた**時に**逃げる先は、ほとんどが高台にある

「一時避難場所」である。

*Ookina yure wo kanjita **toki ni** nigeru saki wa, hotondo ga takadai ni aru (ichi ji hinan basho) dearu.*

"**When** it feels a high vibration, mostly the places of escape is (temporary evacuation site) in the highland."

From the sentence above, it is stated that toki ni is to express the time in common events. In this usage, events that commonly occur can be unpleasant events, and toki ni is used as an expression of the time. As in (7), it is written that the speaker might not be able to have children, and this event happened in "15 years old" as described by toki ni.

Furthermore, common events can also be a pleasant events as in (8), which is being able to communicate without problems. And, there are also general events regarding information or things that many people are already known, such as in (9) which states that the high place is a place to escape from high vibration.

C.   The Usage of Uchi Ni (うちに)

In the usage of uchi ni, 15 data were used and its placed based on the type of usage:

Chart 4. The usage number of Uchi Ni in the BCCWJ newspaper
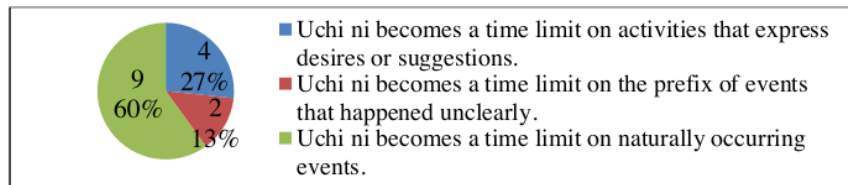
(Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese)

Based on the chart above, the main usage of uchi ni becomes a time limit on naturally occurring events (9 data or 60%). Furthermore, the next paragraph will explain the usage analysis of uchi ni followed by their meaning.

1. The Usage of Uchi Ni (うちに) Becomes a Time Limit on Activities That Express Desires or Suggestions

    10) とすれば、私は悲劇が起きない**うちに**両面宿儺はイラクから撤退したほうがよいと思うのであるが、いかがであろうか。

    *Tosureba, watashi wa higeki ga okinai **uchi ni** ryoumensukuna wa Iraku kara tettai shita hou ga yoi to omou no dearu ga, ikaga de arou ka.*

    "If so, **while** that tragedy hasn't happened, I think it's better to evacuate the double-sided inn from Iraq, what do you think?"

In (10), uchi ni becomes a time limit on activities that express desires or suggestions. In this usage, there is a confidence by the speaker that the interlocutor will agree with his suggestions, because uchi ni means "must-feeling" to carry out activities before the event ends.

2.   The Usage of Uchi Ni (うちに) Becomes a Time Limit on The Prefix of Events That Happened Unclearly

11) 「１１月にはジョージ・ブッシュを倒すぞ」。数週間の**うちに**太くなり、貫禄すら漂わせ始めたケリー氏の声に、集まった支持者は歓声を上げた。

(Juu ichi gatsu ni wa Jooji Busshu wo taosu zo). Suu-shuukan no **uchi ni** *futoku nari, kanroku sura tadayowase hajimeta Kerii-shi no koe ni, atsumatta shiji-sha wa kansei wo ageta.*

"(I'll beat George Bush in November). The supporter who gathered cheered at the voice of Mr. Kelly who began to give up his dignity and grow fat **for** several weeks."

In (11), the speaker did not know clearly when Mr. Kelly became fat, so it is stated that uchi ni becomes a time limit on the prefix of events that happened unclearly.

3.   The Usage of Uchi Ni (うちに) Becomes a Time Limit on Naturally Occurring Events

12) このたんぱくが増える**うちに**正常な神経細胞を死滅させるのです。

Kono tanpaku ga fueru **uchi ni** *seijouna shinkei saibou wo shimetsu saseru nodesu.*

"**When** the amount of this protein increases, it kills normal nerve cells."

In (12), uchi ni becomes a time limit on naturally occurring events. And can also be interpreted as a causality. As in (12), it is stated that the increased amount of protein followed by the word uchi ni will be known naturally which is kill normal nerve cells.

Conclusion

1. Aida ni shows the time of conjecture that is certainly or uncertainly happened, and it also shows the similarity of time between two people who do different activities. The main usage of aida ni becomes a time limit on the events that have a clear period.

2. Toki ni shows the specific time of past events, and the time of common events. The main usage of toki ni is to express the time in common events.

3. Uchi ni shows the necessity to carry out activities in the second sentence before the first event ends, it shows the confidence by the speaker that the interlocutor will agree with his suggestions, it also shows that the next activities occur unexpectedly and sometimes it creates a causality. The main usage of uchi ni becomes a time limit on naturally occurring events.

4. The similarities between aida ni, toki ni, and uchi ni are to express the time in the two events that take place simultaneously.

5. The differences are 1) Aida ni and uchi ni have a span of time when the events occur, while toki ni does not. 2) The time that expressed by aida ni and toki ni are certain, while the time that expressed by uchi ni is considered

uncertain. 3) Aida ni is used in an conjecture event, while uchi ni is used in an event that unexpectedly going to happen. 4) Aida ni can connect the prefix and suffix time in the happening event, while toki ni can not. 5) Toki ni is used at specific activity times while uchi ni is not.

Acknowledgement

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